

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 02546

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: SEATING ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARCH 21-23 REINFORCED
EWG ON LTDP

1. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MARCH 10 DEFENSE REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC) MEETING, ASYG MUMFORD RAISED THE QUESTION OF SEATING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MARCH 21-23 REINFORCED EWG MEETING. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH SOME COUNTRIES DESIRED TO HAVE THREE SEATS AT THE TABLE, HE HOPED TO LIMIT IT TO TWO WITH THE SECOND SEAT ROTATING AS REQUIRED TO ACCOMMODATE OTHER SPEAKERS. MUMFORD RECALLED THAT THIS WAS THE ARRANGEMENT USED AT THE PREVIOUS EWG AND THAT IT WORKED FINE.

2. THE DISCUSSION THEN FOCUSED ON THE TOTAL SEATING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MEETING. NETHERLANDS REP (STEENAERT) WAS PARTICULARLY INSISTENT THAT LARGER THAN NORMAL SEATING REQUIREMENTS BEHIND THE TABLE WOULD EXIST BECAUSE OF THE EXTENSIVE INTEREST IN THIS LTDP MEETING. HE WAS SUPPORTED BY FRG REP (VON SANDRART) WHO POINTED
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OUT THE CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF OVERLAP WHICH WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO LIMIT ATTENDANCE TO JUST THOSE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED WITH THE TASK FORCE REPORT UNDER DISCUSSION. MUMFORD'S INITIAL RESPONSE WAS THAT TWO PLACES AT THE TABLE AND SIX BACK-UP SEATS SHOULD BE ADEQUATE AND THAT SOME OF THE ESSENTIAL COHESIVE ATMOSPHERE WOULD BE LOST IF THE MEETING WERE FORCED

INTO THE LARGEST CAPACITY ROOM, ROOM 16. BOWING TO EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN THAT SIX BACK-UP SEATS MIGHT NOT BE ADEQUATE, MUMFORD SAID THAT HE MIGHT HAVE TO CONSIDER USE OF HALF OF ROOM 16, WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THE ADDED SPACE NEEDED.

3. COMMENT: IN OUR VIEW, VALID REQUIREMENTS WILL EXIST FOR MORE THAN SIX BACK-UP SPACES. WE RECOMMEND ACCEPTING THE ARRANGEMENT OF TWO SEATS AT THE TABLE BUT INSISTENCE ON A REQUIREMENT OF MORE THAN SIX BACK-UP SEATS (PREFERABLY NINE) AND USE OF CONFERENCE ROOM 16 IF REQUIRED. END COMMENT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.
BENNETT

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